

**Plant Distribution on Penguin Island.**—On 19th August, 1973, senior students of Como High School carried out a belt transect of the plants on the dunes of Penguin Island, Safety Bay, as part of a field biology exercise, and the results obtained are presented here mainly because they are so strikingly different from the results obtained in a similar study by the Western Australian Naturalists' Club, reported by Penny Hussey ("Excursions, Penguin Island, Safety Bay," *W. Aust. Nat.*, 12, 1973: 117-120).

The transect chosen was only about 60 m south of the Naturalists' Club transect. It was due east-west, 3 m wide, and plants were listed at 3 m intervals right across the island. Annual herbs and grasses were not recorded.

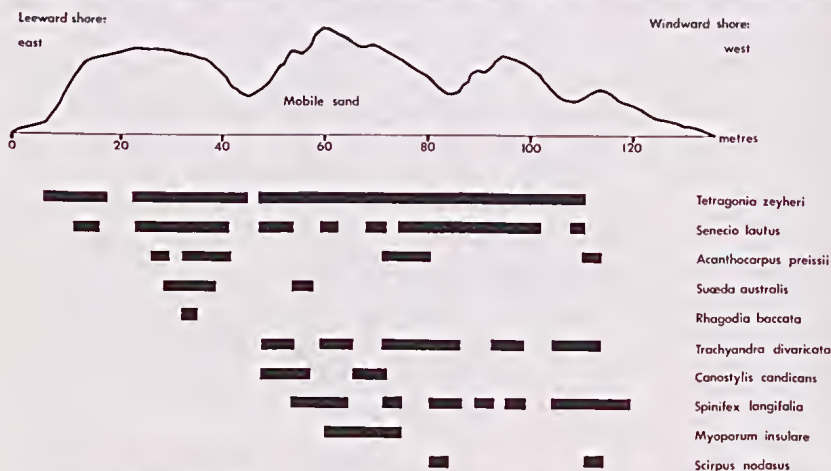


Fig. 1.—Distribution of perennial plants along 135 x 3 m transect. Vertical scale exaggerated by approx. 1.5

Of the 18 species listed by Miss Hussey, only seven were observed, and three other species were listed which were not found on the more northerly transect. Not only had the area a less diverse flora, but it was clear that the plant cover was much lower and sparser (though in neither survey was an actual measurement of population densities attempted). The mobile sand extended right across the island, and no stable community dominated by *Acacia* had developed on the leeward slopes. It may be that these dunes have been deposited in their present position too recently for the development of the more varied flora found just a little further north. Alternatively, the succession may have reached its climax, but the island, being a little narrower and lower at this point, perhaps does not provide the sheltered conditions required for some of the plants found in the *Acacia* community. If so, it would indicate that quite a small change in the topographic conditions is all that is required for the plant association typical of windward slopes to occupy leeward slopes. The island is 135 m wide and has a maximum altitude of about 14 m along this transect; along the Naturalists' Club transect it is 160 m wide and rises 18 m above sea level.

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**Extension of Range of some Kimberley Birds.**—The Department of Fisheries and Fauna commissioned me to carry out a faunal survey of the Point Coulomb Reserve, which is located on the west coast of Dampier Land, about 50 miles north of Broome. The survey was completed in June-July, 1971, and the vertebrates collected were lodged in the Western Australian Museum. Among the birds were six species previously unknown from Dampier Land (the peninsula lying to the south and west of King Sound).

**Broad-billed Flycatcher (*Myiagra ruficollis*)**—A male (A 11587 in W.A. Museum) was collected in the Cape Baskerville mangroves on June 24.

**Brown-tailed Flycatcher (*Microeca tormenti*)**—A female (A 11597) was collected in the Cape Baskerville mangroves on June 27.